Application No.: 09/638,268   Docket No.: 20421-00074-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A new set of drawings is attached following page 11.

7

Application No.: 09/638,268   Docket No.: 20421-00074-US

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are presently pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A new set of drawings is enclosed. Withdrawal of the objection thereto is requested.

Withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is requested. Page 10 correctly states that the command statement includes a significance level for each <u>parameter combination</u> specification.

Page 11 makes it clear that the <u>values</u> of the parameters of a specification can be changed, however the <u>significance</u> of the parameter combination remains the same. Command statements specify a combination of parameters whereas iteration statements specify the values of the parameters within the combination.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is requested. Claim 1 has been amended to avoid the concerns in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Meyer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,204) in view of Mongan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,088) is requested.

The patent to Meyer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,204) provides a bus modeling language generator. In order to ensure that data processing components can work together properly, a software simulation is derived representing various system hardware components. The system collects information describing a desired data exchange between simulated devices and generates simulation model control programs that replicate a desired data exchange. In this way, the interaction between components of a computer system can be tested.

8

Application No.: 09/638,268   Docket No.: 20421-00074-US

The described system represents a bus functional model which includes a software implemented interface to a model of the device under test. The model selects data transfer addresses as well as generates a collection of data retrieval instructions from the collection of addresses. Each data transfer instruction may include an address selected from the collection of data transfer address values. Address range constraints may define the collection of address ranges to be used. A simulation model processes a data retrieval instruction to simulate a bus transfer command affecting a data transfer. A modeling language program file is provided which includes a collection data output instructions and a collection of data input instructions.

The present invention provides for a system which generates test cases representing bus transactions of a device under test. The device under test is represented by a configuration file comprising a specification of parameters for each bus transaction type. The configuration file generates a test case comprising bus transactions for verification of the device under test.

In accordance with claim 2, the configuration file has valuating rules which exclude selected bus transactions from a test case. According to claim 5, the test case is derived by converting the condensed syntax of a configuration file into possible parameter combinations for bus transactions of the device under test. The remaining claims are directed to variations of this configuration file which produce parameter combinations to generate the bus functional language statements.

The cited primary reference does not disclose creating a test case using a combination of parameters from a configuration file, or testing the combination of parameters against any rules contained within the configuration file. The Office Action acknowledges on page 6 thereof that Meyer's fails to provide this disclosure.

9

Application No.: 09/638,268   Docket No.: 20421-00074-US

Turning now to the secondary reference to Mongan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,088), a automated test generator is disclosed. The test generator randomly traverses the description of an interface of a program under test. The test generator provides all possible execution conditions for a software program to verify its viability. In reviewing the reference, there is no reference to any device under test, or any bus functional model which generates various test cases. The disclosed system is directed to testing an application program by generating conditions for the program to operate from various user interface states. The automatic testing apparatus represents an interface to the application program as a graph, and then automatically generates a test that exercises the application program by randomly traversing the graph.

It is submitted that none of the features of the rejected claims, relating to a configuration file for a device under test, can be found in the secondary reference. Specifically, the secondary reference does not appear to test any proposed hardware device, but is used to test software which has been written as an application program.

Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Meyer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,204) in view of Mongan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,088) further in view of Shrote (U.S. Pat. No. 5,774,358) is requested. The Shrote reference is directed to a system to generate an instruction data stream used to verify a hardware implementation of an integrated circuit design. The generated instruction/data stream will initialize the hardware so that it reaches specific predefined states which can be measured and monitored against expectant states.

The reference fails to add any thing to the combination of Meyer (U.S .Pat. No. 6,571,204) and Mongan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,088). The reference does not describe any bus functional models or any configuration files for identifying rules and parameter combinations which are used to test a simulated device. In reviewing the Shrote (U.S. Pat. No. 5,774,358) reference, it appears that the devices under test are actual hardware devices.

10

Application No.: 09/638,268   Docket No.: 20421-00074-US

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Meyer (U.S. Pat. No. 6,571,204) in view of Mongan (U.S. Pat. No. 6,378,088) and further in view of Shrote (U.S. Pat. No. 5,774,358) and Mantooth et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,236,956) is requested. Claim 9 is dependent on claim 5, and carries all the limitations thereof. As claim 5 is considered to be allowable in view of the rejection based on Meyer, Mongan and Shrote, it is believed to render claim 9 allowable as well.

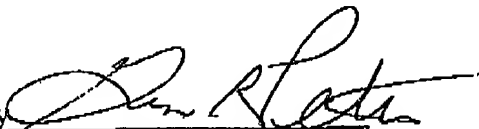In view of the foregoing favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0563, under Order No. 20421-00074-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 1/14/05

Respectfully submitted,

By
George R. Pettit, Reg. No. 27,369
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments

11